

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 3, 9, and 15. Please add new claims 19-22. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1-2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) A computer system, said computer system comprising:
2 a bus;
3 a central processing unit;
4 memory, said memory being connected to said central processing unit via said bus; and
5 a password validation mechanism for verifying a single common password string for
6 accessing a plurality of password-protected resources, each said password-protected resource
7 having a single corresponding set of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity
8 requirements, each said set of validity requirements independently defining requirements of a
9 valid password string for accessing the corresponding password-protected resource, said password
10 protection mechanism verifying simultaneous compliance of a single common password string
11 with each said set of validity requirements of said plurality of sets of validity requirements, said
12 plurality of sets of validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a
13 password string for accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity
14 requirements for a password string for accessing a second password-protected resource different
15 from said first password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different
16 from said second set of validity requirements, said password validation mechanism providing
17 simultaneous feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single common password string
18 against each said set of said plurality of sets of validity requirements of more than one password-
19 protected resource.

4-8. (Cancelled)

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1 9. (Currently Amended) A program product, said program product comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a program product disposed on said memory, said program product being a password
4 validation mechanism for verifying a single common password string for accessing a plurality of
5 password-protected resources, each said password-protected resource having a single
6 corresponding set of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity requirements, each said
7 set of validity requirements independently defining requirements of a valid password string for
8 accessing the corresponding password-protected resource, said password protection mechanism
9 verifying simultaneous compliance of a single common password string with each said set of
10 validity requirements of said plurality of sets of validity requirements, said plurality of sets of
11 validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a password string for
12 accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity requirements for a
13 password string for accessing a second password-protected resource different from said first
14 password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different from said
15 second set of validity requirements, said password validation mechanism providing simultaneous
16 feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single common password string against each said
17 set of said plurality of sets of validity requirements of more than one password-protected resource.

1 10. (Original) The program product of claim 9 wherein said password validation mechanism
2 simultaneously provides feedback for each of said more than one resource.

1 11. (Original) The program product of claim 9 wherein said password validation mechanism
2 simultaneously provides feedback for each resource using more than one visual cue.

1 12. (Original) The program product of claim 11 wherein said more than one visual cue is
2 selected from the group consisting of icon presentation, message presentation, and character
3 highlighting.

13-14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method for providing feedback to a user, said method comprising
2 the steps of:

3 receiving a common password string for use in accessing a plurality of password protected
4 resources from said user;

5 checking whether said common password string simultaneously conforms with to each set
6 of validity requirements of a plurality of sets of validity requirements, each said set of validity
7 requirements defining requirements of a valid password for more than one accessing a respective
8 corresponding password-protected resource of said plurality of password-protected resources, said
9 plurality of sets of validity requirements including a first set of validity requirements for a
10 password for accessing a first password-protected resource and a second set of validity
11 requirements for a password for accessing a second password-protected resource different from
12 said first password-protected resource, said first set of validity requirements being different from
13 said second set of validity requirements; and

14 presenting said user with feedback regarding each said respective set of validity
15 requirements for each of said more than one password-protected resource.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously
2 providing feedback for each of said more than one resource.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously
2 providing feedback for each resource using more than one visual cue.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said more than one visual cue is selected from
2 the group consisting of icon presentation, message presentation, and character highlighting.

1 19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said presenting step involves simultaneously
2 providing feedback for each resource using a respective different at least one visual cue
3 corresponding to each said resource.

1 20. (New) The computer system of claim 3, wherein said password validation mechanism
2 provides simultaneous feedback to a user regarding validity of a said single password string
3 against said plurality of sets of validity requirements by providing a respective different at least
4 one visual cue corresponding to each said set of validity requirements.

1 21. (New) The computer system of claim 3, wherein:
2 there exists at least one password string satisfying said first set of validity requirements
3 which does not satisfy said second set of validity requirements; and
4 there exists at least one password string satisfying said second set of validity requirements
5 which does not satisfy said first set of validity requirements.

1 22. (New) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said password validation
2 mechanism simultaneously provides feedback for each resource using a respective different at
3 least one visual cue corresponding to each said resource.